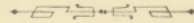


THE ORIGIN OF THE ARYAN RACE.

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T H E S I S

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The Origin of the Aryan Race.

How often in this busy world of life does one stop to think who he is and from whence he came? What does he care whether he is a descendant of Adam and Eve or is a derivation of the ape? Does it matter to him how it comes about that there exist men of different types, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans and representatives of many other nations on this earth, totally different in color, language and moral characteristics and seemingly only resembling each other in their physical form? Ah, No. He is content to simply notice the difference in mankind and know that he himself exists without knowing why. He lives strictly in the present and as each day is done the curtain of the past is rolled forward and shuts out all but the memories of deeds done, which also soon fade and give place to things more

recent.

But we may be thankful that there are men who have penetrated this mystery and have given their best years in tracing the histories of nations, even passing beyond the written records of man and seeking the origin of man in the relics and other traces, long since buried deep under the earth, and in the languages which have been developed in the past, in which traces are found as deeply buried by the changes which time and man have produced.

The sciences which have been of the most assistance in fathoming this mystery of the past, Comparative Philology, Archaeology and Anthropology, are, we may say, of recent date and since their discovery the progress in this direction has been rapid.

It is not my purpose to trace back from the present the steps by which the races of the world were formed,

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but, taking the nations of Europe and Asia as they were in the centuries before the Christian era, trace them to a common origin.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, Sir William Jones found that between the Teutonic, Latin, Greek and the newly discovered languages, Sanskrit and Zend, there was a striking analogy. He pursued his search still farther and at last proclaimed that nearly all of the European and a few of the Asiatic languages had sprung from a common source, and that there was once a primitive language from which these were derived. This was the beginning of the science of Comparative Philology.

It was about fifty years later that Bopp gave to the world his "Comparative Grammar" which may be considered the most influential agent in putting Comparative Philology upon a scientific footing. By careful comparison it

was found that the languages, which seemed to be akin and to group themselves about a parent speech were in Europe, the Latin, Greek, Teutonic, Celtic, Slavonic, Lithuanian and Lettic, and in Asia the Indic, including all of the dialects of India derived from the Sanskrit, the Iranian, including Zend, Persian and others, and lastly the Armenian, (this classification is according to Canon Taylor in his "Origin of the Aryan Race".) These languages were grouped under the name "Aryan".

This name has not been adopted as being the most comprehensive term of the many proposed but has been chosen more on account of its brevity and convenience, and, although not recognized by all authorities, is becoming the proper word.

Soon after the discovery of a possibility of a primitive race, theories were eagerly advanced as to what people fulfilled the proper conditions and from whence they came.

The common belief for centuries had been that Asia was the seat of the oldest civilization and naturally the supposition followed that the primitive Aryan would be found in Asia. There were no dissenters from this view until 1851. when a Dr. Katham raised a doubt whether the theory of an Asiatic origin could be proven. Moreover he stated that a European origin was more probable and cited among other arguments the fact that of all the Aryan tribes only the Indo-Iranian were Asiatic, and that it was more probable that the one Asiatic group had migrated from Europe, than that all of the other tribes had moved from Asia, leaving but one tribe in their native land. His arguments were at first unnoticed but the rapid progress made in the sciences relating to this subject soon brought new evidence to light and in 1872 a pamphlet by a German named Schmidt gave the Asiatic theory a heavy blow. Since that time the European

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theory has been steadily growing in favor. Both sides have strong adherents but the weight of opinion today seems in favor of the European theory.

The main causes for the support of this view were the advances made in the sciences of Geology, Anthropology and Craniology. Geology has shown us that Europe has been inhabited by man for ages, dating back to the glacial period and that in the caves and mounds scattered over all parts of Western Europe and not in the tombs of Egypt and Babylon are the oldest evidences of prehistoric man to be sought.

Craniology has proved that the people of Europe were representatives of at least two distinct races, one with long and narrow skulls called by Huxley the long-heads, and the other with skulls of a greater breadth, called the broad-heads. The first is described as a tall, light-haired, blue-eyed and fair complected race, the second,

of short stature, black-haired and with dark complexion.

In considering the antiquity of these early inhabitants and their connection with the nations of historic times, we must seek for evidences in the tombs and barrows scattered throughout Europe and found at the present day some distance below the surface. (In this consideration I have derived most of my evidence from Taylor)

These tombs as receptacles for the bodies of the dead are common in many places in England, France, Germany and Denmark. The bodies were always accompanied with many of the earthly possessions of the deceased, implements of warfare and domestic use, food and sometimes animals. From these remains scientists are enabled to tell the age in which the race lived, i.e., the Stone, Bronze, or Iron age. In the Swiss lake dwellings, for instance, we find that farthest below the surface stone implements

are discovered, nearer the surface, bronze and then iron, giving indications also that the civilization in that region had been continuous up to the historic period. In the kitchen middens of Denmark indications of a more archaic civilization than that of the Swiss lake dwellings are found. Early indications show these people of the kitchen middens to have been a race of hunters and fishermen. Later they developed pastoral and agricultural tendencies and really developed a comparatively high civilization.

So in many places evidences of the existence of man at least in the neolithic and in some cases of the palaeolithic period, are common and tend to show that the European races are of greater antiquity than the Asiatic. The task still remains to identify these prehistoric races with the European peoples as we know them, and when this is done a great step has been made toward proving the European origin of the Aryan race.

Probably unless further developments are forth coming the identity and place of origin of the primitive race will never be settled. And yet from the progress already made in this line it might be possible to obtain sufficient evidence to prove the theory. At present, all that may be said is that the weight of evidence today seems to be upon the side of a European origin and this side rather than the other will be discussed.

The establishment of the identity of the prehistoric races has been left mainly to the science of Craniology and nobly has it performed its office. The skull is one of the least variable characteristics of race and is the truest index of relationship. The form of the skull is expressed by the numerical ratio of measurements called indices. The most common and the only one which will be referred to in this discussion is the cephalic index or the ratio of the breadth to the length of the cranium, the result being multiplied by 100.

Skulls are classified according to their cephalic indices into two main groups, the long-heads or dolichocephalic, skulls with low indices, and the broad-heads or brachycephalic, those with high indices.

Huxley divides the races of the world into Mongoloid, Negroid and Caucasian, with a subdivision of the latter into Xanthochroi and Melanochroi or the light and dark whites. These last two constitute the Aryan race and are the ones with which we are concerned. Taylor divides the European races into the Celtic, Iberian, Scandinavian and Ligurian.

Representatives of the first three are found in Great Britain, the first two in great profusion. The evidences of these races are found in barrows or caves, some of great size and showing some degree of civilization. There are two distinct forms of these barrows, one kind being long and narrow, while the other is round. Again the skulls found in these barrows showed a marked difference. Those obtained from the long

barrowers were of very low cephalic index and showed a mild, weak temperament in the weak upper lip and receding chin. The round barrow skulls, on the other hand, presented an entirely different aspect. These skulls were pronounced brachycephalic, the indices running as high as 84. The characteristics of the skull were the massive, angular face, square, powerful jaws, high cheek bones and a general idea of strength of character. The skeletons showed the round barrow people to have been a tall and the other a very short race. The long barrow race belongs to the "Stone Age" and from the evidences of the round barrow people, found nearer the surface than like traces of the long barrows, it is conjectured that they were an invading race. Types of this long-barrow race are also found in Wales and the western part of England. On the continent types of the long-barrow skulls are found in France, Belgium and Spain. This type, identified with skulls found in the Caverne d'Homme most in France and other caves in France and Spain,

is designated by the name Iberian. The Iberians had extended over most of the Spanish peninsula and the borders of the Mediterranean sea and have representatives in the modern Basques. The Spanish Basques are also of this type.

The Round barrow type, found in England, probably invaded Britain in the latter part of the neolithic period as only a few bronze implements are found. This race has been identified with the brachy cephalic races of Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Northern Italy, constituting the Celtic race.

This type extended over the greater part of Northern Europe, reaching from "the Tyne to the Tiber and eastward down the Danube and across the great Russian plains." The Celts appear to have been an energetic, comparatively civilized race, strong of limb, tall in stature, and from indications appear to have been the most powerful race of their time.

The third race mentioned is the Scandinavian. This type is found both in England and Southern Germany, more especially

the latter, and is distinguished as to its cranial developments by a dolichocephalic head, somewhat similar to the Iberian type, but with angular face, firm chin in contrast to the weak chin and upper lip of the long-barrow type.

Moreover, the skeletons of this new type are over six feet tall, in marked contrast to the Iberians who are only about five feet four inches. From the fact of the general distribution of this race over the regions of the Gothic, Burgundian and Saxon conquests, it must be considered as the type of the old Teutonic race. Its representatives today are few, some parts of Sweden containing representatives of the type.

Let us now consider the last of these neolithic races, the Ligurians. This name has been applied only from the fact that the race is probably related to the Roman Ligurians and furnish a convenient name. In central France have been found skeletons of a race extremely short as well as strongly brachycephalic. These skeletons, found in many places through-

out France, show this race to have been of later origin than the Iberians or Scandinavian, skeletons of both of the latter having been found further below the surface than those of the Ligurian race. The marked characteristics mentioned appear strongly in the Lapps and have been identified with them. Outside of the Lapps the representatives of this race are found only in France. The main branch is called the Auvergnat race. They appear to have been a peaceable people, having no weapons but light javelins for spearing game.

Summing up the characteristics of the four types considered we find that there are two of the dolichocephalic type and two of the brachycephalic; two fair-complected, tall races of opposite cranial development and two short, dark complected races. It would be difficult to identify the Iberian with the Scandinavian or the Ligurian with the Celtic, but such a thing might be possible and thus condense the four races into two.

In tracing the Aryan race and determining which of

the neolithic races if any have the best claim to be the primitive Aryan, it would be necessary to notice that Aryan race is not coextensive with Aryan language. The language has been extended over regions containing descendants of non-Aryan peoples. This could easily be brought about as language is more mutable than physical characteristics and could easily be taken up by a conquered race and adopted as a natural speech.

The permanence of race characteristics may be illustrated by considering the mixed races of the world. We see where communication has taken place between two races, that the stronger may impose their language upon the conquered race, but if a mixture of the races occurs, the offsprings are in most cases of one or the other type. In the case of mulattoes, unless fresh blood is infused, they soon die out. The English in India soon become unproductive, probably from the effect of the climate, and the negro can not thrive

in northern climates for the same reason. From these facts an obvious conclusion is that mixed races, especially between extreme types are not so common or permanent as is generally supposed. So in race mixture the stronger race imposes its customs, manners and civilization upon the weaker race, but in language this law does not hold. However there seems to be a law which is stated by Professor Sayce - "We may lay it down as a general rule that, whenever two nations equally advanced in civilization are brought into close contact, the language of the most numerous will prevail. Where however a small body of invaders bring a higher civilization with them, the converse is more likely to follow."

As the Aryan invaders were in all probabilities less numerous than the people they conquered, their civilization must have been higher and they imposed their language wherever they went. Hence it would be reasonable to seek for the primitive race in the most highly cultured of the neolithic

tribes. Taylor considers that the Celtic, the most important and highly civilized of the four races discussed, has the best claim to this title. Others, however, have a different theory, believing that the primitive Aryan is descended from the Melanochrois race or the dark whites and they in turn were formed from a mixture of the Mongoloid and Negroid races. As to whether these last two races are the ancestors of the Caucasians or whether the Aryans are derived from a separate branch of created man, is open to speculation. Men theorize and seemingly prove but, until more and positive evidence is discovered, it will remain an open question.

Science is a little more definite in regard to the location of the home of the Aryans. Philology has done much to determine the characteristics of the people as well as indicating the character of the region they inhabited. In the first place we know that the Aryan country was a cold region, as they have names for only winter, spring, and summer and the best

series of names for climatic conditions being for the winter. Again, there are no primitive words for camel, lion and tiger; these animals being common in Asia and not in Europe, their absence indicates a strong point in favor of the European origin of the race.

Again, when the light of history first dawns upon Europe, we find Aryan people occupying all except the colder regions of the north. They are not there as intruders but appear to have existed in these regions for some time. Against these arguments is placed the fact that in the whole history of the world, the movements of both people and civilization have been westward and that the oldest civilization of history existed in the countries of Western Asia.

From the evidences now available to scientists this question of location can not be settled but the time may come when it will be definitely determined. The weight of opinion today among the later scientists seems to be in

forces of the European origin. As to the position in Europe, as to which to place the primitive race, there are two regions proposed, both having supporters. The first is the Scandinavian peninsula and the plains of Germany, and the other the broad plains of Southern Russia, extending to the Black sea on the south and east to the Ural mountains.

I will give briefly a few of the leading facts for and against each view, more to give a general idea of the merits of each, than to attempt to prove one or the other.

One important argument for the Scandinavian theory is that this region is the only one in the world occupied by the fair whites, who have been considered as the descendants of the primitive race, this type losing its identity gradually as you go southward, passing into the dark white type.

Again, from the fact that the migrations of the Aryan race were necessitated by the overcrowding of the country these migrations would extend equally in all directions

indicating a central position as best suited to these conditions.

Against this theory and in favor of the other we may say that it is proven that the primitive race, being a pastoral people, the region of Scandinavia is anything but suited to this state of mankind, while the great plains of southern Russia furnish abundant room for the grazing of their herds and the care of their flocks. The reindeer, a common animal and a beast of burden for the northern Baltic regions, was not known to the Aryans. But seeking the geological traces, we find the oldest evidences of civilization to be in the Swiss lake dwellings and the kitchen middens of Denmark. Thus the controversy could be carried on and on without reaching any conclusion. However the Scandinavian theory has been adopted by many of the recent authors and is growing in favor.

Leaving this subject, let us pass to the consideration

of the Aryan race, its characteristics, mode of life and the process of its development into the largely diversified nations of the world. In order to learn this we must look to the language. In isolating words common to the Aryan races we divide them into two classes, those common to a part and those found in all the Aryan languages. The former would indicate that such branches had separated from the parent race and after the division had made some progress. Those words common to all the races serve as indications of the characteristics of the primitive people and on this basis an idea of the race as to its pursuits and manner of living, has been formed by Professor Sayce.

We see them performing a two-fold duty, that of pastoral and agricultural life. Of domesticated animals the cow was the most valued. They also had the horse, goat and pig, but the horse was never ridden. The ox was used as a beast of burden. We see the people growing more and more into

an agricultural people; the tribes become settled and the words for plowing and others of a like nature became known. They lived in houses with doors but no windows; straw-thatched roofs were used. Baked pottery comprised their cooking utensils and their meat was cooked.

In domestic life strict monogamy prevailed. Their dress consisted of a tunic, coat, collar and sandals. They hunted the bear, wolf and smaller game and roamed over the sea in boats. In war they were brave, fighting mostly with the ax and bow.

We might trace them as they rise slowly in civilization, growing in numbers and extending their dominion to the natural boundaries which surrounded them. We might find them launching their boats upon the sea and making excursions to neighboring lands in search of plunder.

Soon the numbers become too great to remain as one body in this region and a portion branches out and settles

in parts unknown. This migration increases until the whole of Europe is inhabited. Slowly civilization with its subtle influence acts upon these nations, sifting out the coarse brutalities of the barbarian and leaving the culture and refinement. Thus, spread over all of Europe and a portion of Asia, they appear as the nations of historic times.

A great deal more than is represented here might be said upon this subject. Scientists are working continually upon the evidences at hand and seeking for more light to perfect their theories. The progress in the last quarter of a century has been wonderful. The fact of a unit language and a unit race is well established, but just how far science will be able to carry her investigations is a question. Will the primitive race ever be discovered and its identity made perfect? Will the place of their origin be satisfactorily proven? These questions will not be

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settled for some time to come, but I firmly believe
that the required evidence will be discovered, the mystery
cleared away and we will at last know who we are and
from whence we came.

G. M. Hobbs.

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